

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GENEVA 00915 091839Z

64

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02 ACDA-10 /127 W

----- 122542

R 091815Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8037

INFO USUN NEW YORK 2640

UNCLAS GENEVA 0915

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, UN

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) - US STATEMENT ON
CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION

1. TEXT FOLLOWS OF STATEMENT GIVEN BY US REP GARMENT ON
FEB 6 AND RESPONSE BY AUSTRIA, THE SPONSOR OF THE RESOLUTION
UNDER DEBATE: BEGIN TEXT:

MR CHAIRMAN:

THE RESOLUTION NOW PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION IS A
DISTINCT DISAPPOINTMENT.

WE HOPED THAT THE RESOLUTION WOULD SIMPLY AFFIRM SUPPORT
FOR THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS,
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, WOULD ENDORSE, WITHOUT RESERVATION
OR CAVIL, THE PRINCIPLE OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION.

AS I STATED YESTERDAY, THE UNITED STATES WAS PREPARED
TO GIVE ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT TO SUCH A RESOLUTION. I ALSO
EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONFINING THE RESOLUTION TO
RELEVANT MATTERS WHICH WERE NOT OF A SELECTIVE POLITICAL
NATURE. WE THOUGHT PROFESSOR ERMACORA'S ORIGINAL RESOLUTION
STRUCK AN APPROPRIATE AND NON CONTROVERSIAL BALANCE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 GENEVA 00915 091839Z

NOW WE HAVE BEFORE US A RESOLUTION THAT HAS BEEN CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY, GREATLY WEAKENING SUPPORT FOR THE GENERAL PRINCIPLE OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION, AND FURTHER LIMITING SUCH RECOGNITION BY LINKING IT IN A VAGUE MANNER WITH GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE STRUGGLE AGAINST FOREIGN OCCUPATION AND ALIEN RULE--WORDS FOR THE MOST INTENSELY SELECTIVE OF ALL CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL ISSUES. AND MORE CHANGES ARE FORESHADOWED BY THIS AFTERNOON'S DEBATE.

GIVEN THE APPARENTLY IRRESISTIBLE COMPULSION OF THE COMMISSION TO WEAKEN UNIVERSALLY APPLICABLE HUMAN RIGHTS PROPOSITIONS, AND TO INTRODUCE EXTRANEEOUS AND PARTISAN POLITICAL MATTERS INTO EVERY AVAILABLE SETTING -- NO MATTER HOW FAR FETCHED -- OUR DISAPPOINTMENT SHOULD HAVE BEEN PREDICTABLE. BUT WE ARE DISAPPOINTED NEVERTHELESS. PARTICULARLY SINCE THIS ONE AND HALF PAGE RESOLUTION HAS BEEN DRAFTED, DEBATED, AND REDRAFTED SINCE 1972.

MR CHAIRMAN, I SERIOUSLY DOUBT THAT THIS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS HAS THE WILL OR CAPACITY TO ISSUE A STRAIGHTFORWARD DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION.

RESPONSE BY PROF. F. ERMACORA (AUSTRIA)
TO MR GARMENT'S REMARKS

I AM FROM A PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW QUITE IN AGREEMENT WITH THE OBSERVATIONS MADE BY THE DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES. BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, THE UN HAS DEVELOPED A VOCABULARY OVER MANY YEARS THAT IS EVEN ACCEPTED IN THIS COMMISSION. IT HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY DELEGATIONS WHICH ARE HERE AND SO IF I HAVE REDRAFTED THIS RESOLUTION IT IS DUE TO USING SUCH A VOCABULARY AS IS USUAL. I TRIED FOR A TEXT AGREEABLE TO ALL OF US.

END TEXT.

COMMENT FOR MOYHIHAN FROM GARMENT: YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN TAKING A LOOK AT THIS COLLOQUY--IT IS THE STORY OF THE UN COMPRESSED INTO A FEW LINES. PHELAN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, POLICIES, CONSCRIPTION, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA00915
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760049-0441
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760269/aaaacihc.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 SEP 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 SEP 2004 by meiwc>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) - US STATEMENT ON CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION
TAGS: SHUM, US, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006